Vol. XXXIII No. 10,218.

FRENCH POLITICS. POLIFICAL ASPECT OF THE BAZAINE TRIAL HOW IMPERIALISM AND REPUBLICANISM WERE IN-VOLVED-PUBLIC SURPRISE-BAZAINE'S CONDUCT.

IFROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Paris, Dec. 15 .- The condemnation to military degradation and death of Marshal Bazaine by the unanimous voice of his seven judges, accompanied by, if not conditioned on, the unanimity of their iltaneous recommendation of him to the mercy of his fellow Marshal, and the prompt result of this recommendation in a remission of the public ceremony of degradation, a commutation of the milder penalty of death to imprisonment for twenty years, that is for life, will be to you, before this reaches you, like facts of ancient history. It will seem almest as ancient as the condemation of Marshal Ney, whose sculptured image and monument of honor stands erect for the people's admiration on the spot where he was shot to death fifty-eight years ago this very December; as ancient as the condemnation in 1812, for the capitulation of Baylen in 1808, of the as brave Gen. Dupont, who, three years later, was French Minister of War. That M. Bazaine, no longer Marshal, after a long, patient, thoroughly fair trial, was justly condemned and as rightly recommended to mercy, is not likely to be disputed by any foreign military man or statesman. He would say the sad business is well ended. But here the Bazaine question, which was raised nearly three years ago, of which the judicial trial with its sentouce and its commutation are but the central incidents, is still and will remain for this generation at least matter of grave and passionate debate.

Like every question of any general interest in this country, it is entangled with party prejudices and assions, that is with the seething political, social, religious ferment of the time. It was the patriotic desire of Thiers to prevent this Bazaine element from being cast into the already too effervescing coldren. His politic purpose was to cast aside and cover up, by an as large as practicable white sheet of general annesty, the cumulate stock of foul linear cast be the war and the Commune. Whether he, remaining in what was figuratively styled Power, could have kept the French from their favorite pastime of doing their private washing before all sneering or pitying or amused Europe, is quite doubtful. After the 2tth of May the public trial or Bazame was unavoidable. By an unavoid able implication it was the trial of Gambetta (who when Metz fell, proclaimed the Marshal a traitor), and so spread into a trial of the Government of National Defense and envenomed the debate on the immediate well or ill done facts, and the in principle, general merits and demerits, essential superiorities and inferiorities of Imperialism and Re-

It may have been a mistake in policy and in logic for any class of Republicans, yet more for the Bonapartists, to recognize, much worse to insist on, the dentification of their cause with the cause in hearing before the tribunal at the Trianon. But it was, and quite vaturally, a mistake in which the Bonapartists, from the outset, mistakenly committed themselves much deeper than their opponents. Nothing but an excess of party spirit (in the formal expression of which few were so reckless as openly to indulge) could inspire a doubt as to the honor, honesty, intellectual capacity, and technically special competence of the tribunal. The worst that could be said of its President, the Duke d'Aumale, is what has been said with every variety of emphasis, that he is an Orleans Prince, come to his grade of Major Geoeral as King's son by a few unquestionably bravely fought lights with Algerine Arabs; that he ming to sit in judgment on an Imperial Marshal of France, who had his high promotion by forty years of courageous hard campaigning in Africa, the Crimea, and Mexico. That d'Aumale did preve himself quite unexceptionably competent to the fulfillment of his peculiarly exceptional and difficult functions as President of the court-martial, is not reasonably questioned to-day, nor is it by any

It must appear to any outsider, whatever may be his opinion respecting the Imperial policy that provoked the great war, or the Gambetta policy that strove to carry it on, or respecting what might have been the issue of Bazaine's hazy politico-military scheme, that, in the case as presented to the tribunal at the Triance, military judges, restricted by the letter of the sternly, positive military code, could not in honor and conscience, render another verdies than that they did last Wednesday night. And yet it came with something like surprise to the public car. It is not true, as Bonapartist prints are fond of insisting on and howling over, that, from the crowd waiting for news of the decis ion at the St. Lazare station here of the Versaille Railway, there rose a bestial shout of delight on hearing the death verdict. It is true and quite explicable, not to say excusable and justi-fiable, that the popular sentiment was gratiassurance of the death penalty pronounced against a greater crimina sel ever was, or any other swiftly condemand leader of the Commune. Nor is it to be denied that lively Republicans, in their gratified contemplation of the just verdict, were inclined to give precedence to their partisan national feelings. Was an Admiral Byog shot once ? It is a justice we owe to Bazaine to record the fact that he bore the trial well, the result nobly, and the commutation with political discretion. W. H. H.

PROSPECTS OF THE REPUBLIC.

THE PURPOSES OF THE GOVERNMENT-THE MUNICI-PAL BILL-MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING TRE PRESS-HISTORY OF THE LATE FUSION MOVE-

(FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.) Paris, Dec. 3.-Twenty-two years ago yesterday the comp d'élet was struck; 22 years to-day, and at this very hour of writing, the slaughter on the Boulevards was going on. Seized in the dark and throttled in the night, the Republic of 1848 was the next day shot to death, aged three years and nine mouths. The name indeed, vox et preterea nihil, was left on the coffin for a year or longer, but the Empire was really revived and society was saved and the revolution was closed. To-day the Republic, vice Second Empire deceased, is again an its fourth year. Let undevout astrologers cast its horoscope, and uninspired prophets foretell its brief term of existence. Without mad pretense at vaticination we may look at its present apparent chances of life. They are not very cheerful and not very clear; but they offer gleams of hope all the brighter for their contrast with that sember past December of 1851 Since then the people have been, for twenty-two years, exercising themselves, after a fashion and imperfectly enough, under the regime of universal suffrage. A whole generation has come on the stage in the character of active citizens. If they have no yet learned to act well their part, they have come to the sentiment and clothed in the habit of the role. There was a great outcry of astonishment and horror from the conservatives and worth less dead-heads in fashionable society when Gambetta informed them at Grenoble of the simple historical fact that a new social stratum had come to the surface. That noble conservatives of the old red sandstone formation, still less that bourgeois conservatives of the diluvial 1789 period should not like this, is natural. That they should fancy that they could crop down such onteropping, permanently arrest and overlay the fatally uprising democracy by their bard crusts of reactionary applications fittle artificial organic laws and rhetorical wind-

rather than discouraging for the future. The new Cabinet, having undergone numerou changes which are rather for the better, at least so for an ability of new members is concerned than

bags, is very sad for the present, but laughable

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1874.—TRIPLE SHEET.

was anticipated or than was intended till the half hour before its composition was fixed last Thursday evening, remains essentially what it was. The Duke Decazes is a stronger man than the Duke de Broglie, whose place he takes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the latter is a far abler, more cunning man than Beulé, whose place he takes at the far more important Ministry of the Interior, retaining the old title of Vice-President of the Cabi-RAISE THE AMERICUS.

net Council, but with an influence perhaps to be diminished. What the actual spirit and purpose of the Cabinet are might be guessed (were there any doubt) from the municipal bill already proposed by de Broglie. That its provisions are in the most direct contradiction to the decentralizing doctrine and liberal ideas, of which de Broglie was a foremost, zealous advocate, is a detail. In the main, it is a plagiarism; in some grave respects it is worse than the Imperial laws for ruling and controlling, against the legally-expressed will of citizens, the Communes of all France. It subjects the appointment of Mayors and the conduct of the departmental police to the strictest arbitrary control of the Central Government. It is proposed as a temporary arrangement, awaiting further legislation, which is characteristic. It is a measure of distrust, defiance of the Democracy. A law against the press will be the next. A prin-

cipal object of any law on the press will be legally to place upon the press, in all the 83 departments. the restrictions now existing in the 40 departments which are in exceptional stage of siege. The press is the "natural enemy" of all French Governments. Within my experience of more than twenty years it was never free here in Paris, except from Sept. 4. 1870, to January of the following year. The latest reports of the proceedings of the National Assembly at Versailles reach us here in provincial Paris by carrier pigeons. Versailles is but 15 miles away, but the obstacles put in the way of telegraphing from there to Paris is such that a reporter on horseback, let alone in a rail-car, can bring fresher news to the Boulevards than if he sent them by impeded telegraph. This phenomenon is more strictly connected than some greedy Boulevard newsmongers imagine with the aprising of the new social stratum. An entertaining, uncommonly interesting book lies before me. The title of it is "La Verité sur l'essai de Restauration Monarchique." It is not the whole truth; but it is a considerable help toward arriving at the truth of that curious monarchical intrigue which the anonymous author of this little book gives us. That he is authorized, I do not say by the Orleanist Princes, but do say by the best of those confidants of those Princes, is evident. If it hits, it wins for them and him. If it misses, he is paid, and they have but to repudiate him. The book is written with notable cleverness from the Orleanist point of view of the bafiled scheme of Fusion. It gives an intelligible, connected story of the Fusion intrigue for the three months-not adding much to what we already know, but confirming, so far as an anonymous writer can confirm, rumors and suspicious into authoritative assertions. There are are two principal points which this Orleanist inspired historian of the Fusion aims to make. The Count de Chambord, after the 5th August, had nothing but personal sacritices to make in order to become the acclaimed menarch of France. The Orleanist princes frankly made their personal sacrifice to him. If his seeming yielding had been a real yielding, nothing was more certain than that any day between mid August and September the Assembly might have been convened and the King chosen by a saving majority. But the Count de Chambord only half acted, allowing semi-authorized spokesmen to speak for him as long as their undefined speakseemed profitable to his personal cause, and repudiated all their talk at the moment when his cause and the cause France, left in the managing hands of the Orleanists, might almost surely have been secured. The moral of this quite clever Officamiet version of the history of the as yet unsuccessful royalist intrigue is worth attention. It is simply this: Henry V. has voluntarily made and pronounced himself impossible. What remains, then, in the way of hereditary monarchical principle and serviceable prince but the Count de Paris f W. H. B.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE VILLE DU HAVRE INQUIRY. EVIDENCE IN REGARD TO THE LIGHTS DISPLAYED THE CHARGE OF COWARDICE RENEWED.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873. The inquiry into the cause of the collision between the Ville du Havre and the Loch Earn was continued to-day. Evidence was given as to the lights displayed on the two vessels, and their positions. Counselor Butt, on behalf of the owners of the Loch Earn, cross-examined the witnesses, endeavoring to show that something was wrong on board the Ville du Havre. The latter is still unrepresented by

The seamen of the Loch Earn deposed that the two French boats came alongside the English ship before the Ville du Havre sank, and that the French men came on board and remained, and did not assist in the rescue of their comrades. One English sailor declared that he touched Capt. Surmont, whose

THE REPUBLIC OF SPAIN. RUPTURE BETWEEN CASTELAR AND SALMERON.

MADRID, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873.

There is a complete rupture between Señor Castelar and Senor Salmeron, President of the Cortes There is some excitement in Madrid, but the success of tl. Government in the Cortes is considered certain. London, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873.

A special dispatch to The Daily News, from Madrid, reports that the situation in that city is serious BilBao, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873.

Gen. Moriones is reported at Castro, in Cordova with a force of 6,000 Republican troops. Gen. Elio is marching to meet him with 10,000 Carlists.

A NEW MINISTER TO WASHINGTON. THE DIRECTOR OF THE VIENNA EXHIBITION TO REP RESENT AUSTRIA IN THIS COUNTRY.

| LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 1-5:30 a. A dispatch to The Daily News, from Vienna, says it is expected that Baron Schwarz-Senborn, Di-rector of the Universal Exhibition, will be appointed Envoy to Washington.

PANIC ON THE BERLIN BOURSE. LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873.

A special dispatch to The Telegraph, from

Berlin, says there is a panic on the Bourse of that city. FOREIGN NOTES.

The Duke of Edinburgh has arrived at Bern, en route for St. Petersburg. Navigation on the streams in the vicinity Königsberg, Prussia, is closed by ice.

The loss by the burning of Lloyd's Weekly ondon Newspaper office on Monday night is estimated The French Assembly yesterday, after voting the relating Bof 80,000,000f. by additional taxation, adjourned until Jan. 8.

A company of troops has arrived at Nassau . P., from England to do garrison duty, being the first uropean troops stationed there for many years. A Hong Kong telegram advises dealers at

lavana that the Portuguese Government has prohibited be truffic in and shipment of Chinamen from Macao. The Department of Immigration of New-Zealand has extended an invitation to Joseph Arch to visit that country to examine and report upon its re-

The Portuguese Government has issued an order directing that all vessels arriving at ports belong ing to Portugal from the West Coast of Africa shall be placed in quarantine. This measure will prevent the landing of invalids belonging to the Ashantee Expedi-tion at Madeira.

The health of King Lunalilo of the Sand-

wich Islands is precarious. He has a chronic pleurisy, that is likely, from any indiscretion or neglect, to carry him off at any time. Still, with careful and strict tem perance, he might survive for some years. Some time ago he went to Kona, on Hawaii, accompanied by his doctor (a very skillful Frenchman, named Trousseau), and a number of attendants. David Kalakami is acknowledged on all hands to be the next chief to succeed to the throne. He has a fair English education, and is intelligent, but it is conjectured that if he were in power he would display his autiputhy to foreigners, and particularly Americans. His two sisters, however, are married to foreigners, one of them an American, and the other an extremely liberal-minded Englishman, and these two brothers-in-law would possess a large influence over his conduct. ago he went to Kona, on Hawaii, accompanied by his

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE STEAMSHIP RELIEF AGROUND-EFFORTS TO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The steamship Relief, which is to tow the monitor Montauk to New-York, ran aground off the Arsenal Point, and at one time yester day her bow was five feet out of water. The U. S. steamer Triana went to her assistance, but could not succeed in hauling her off the mud bank, in which she is Another attempt will be made by the Gettysburg and Triana together, which will no doubt be

The men engaged in raising the yacht Americus of piles, near the yard, were unable to move her on Monday and during that night, the weather being very rough, one of the piles was forced through her hold and

CONDITION OF THE OSSUPEE.

The sloop-of-war Ossipee, which anchored off the Battery on Monday night, weighed anchor yesterday at noon, steamed up to the Navy-Yard and was moored alongside the Minnesota. None of the crews of either the Ossipee or the Virginius had then been transforred, but two or three of the crew of the Ossipee were sent to the hospital, and at 2.30 p. m. the crew of the Virginius, who had already gathered up their personal effects, responded one by one to the call of their names, and rassed off the vessel, through the hold of the Minpesota, and were taken to the receiving-ship. They number 39, and are recent recruits from New-Orleans, who had been on the receiving ship at Key West only a short time when called into service as the crew of the Virginius. It had not been determined yesterday what immediate disposition would be made of the Ossipee. The officers, however, think she will be taken to the dry-dock, where she will undergo repairs. She has recently seen hard service, and while off Tortugas Island she struck a reef and remained aground overnight, by which accident some of the copper may have been rubbed off her keel. There was also a small hole seven feet below the water-mark. This was noticed before she left port.

The barge at the Navy-Yard has been raised, and the Arapiles, it is stated, will proceed to sea at once. NAVAL ASSIGNMENTS.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Capt. Geo. H. Cooper is detached from the Norfolk Navy-Yard and ordered to command the iron-clad Roanoke. Commander Bunce has reported his return to the United States, having been relieved from the command of the Ashuelot and placed on sick leave.

OCEAN PERILS.

LOSS OF THE ELBE, BOUND FROM LONDON FOR HAM-BURG-THIRTY-TWO PERSONS DROWNED. LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1873.

Intelligence of another marine disaster, attended by a lamentable loss of life, has just reached this city. The steamship Eibe, bound from London for Hamburg, was lost at sea and 32 of the people on board perished.

A SCHOONER WRECKED AND POUR LIVES LOST. NORFOLK, Dec. 31.-The schooner Charles Cook of Boston, from Demerara, laden with guano, sprung a leak and ran ashore 20 miles south of Cape Henry Light yesterday morning. Four of the crew were drowned while attempting to reach the shore in small boats. Wreckers have gone to the wreck with a wreck ing tug.

RUMORED LOSS OF THE FRANKLIN.

Boston, Dec. 31 .- A rumor was current here last night that the United States steamship Fessibin had been lost at sea with all on Board, and it is aimedd to by the morning newspapers, but can be traced to no foun-

THE PIRE RECORD.

IN THIS CITY-THE GREENE-ST. FIRE. The fire at No. 68 Greene-st. on Tuesday morning was not so disastrons as at first reported. The

entire loss did not exceed \$60,000. The insurances are as follows . Julius Sarner & Son, hat and cap makers, whose loss was \$40,000, had \$25,000 insurance in the London, Liverpool, and Globe; Commercial Union. \$10,000; Black River, \$5,000; National of Philadelphia, \$5,000; Allemania, \$5,000; Stuyvesant, \$2,500; Globe, \$2,500; Mechanics', \$2,500, and Merchants', Pennsylvania, \$2,500; total insurance, \$375,000. James R. Clark and Alexander Callae, both commission merchants in cloths, whose losses were about \$1,000 each, had \$5,000 insurance in the Irving; Empire City, \$5,000; Factors' and Traders', \$5,000, and London, Liverpool, and Globe, \$5,000. B. Robock, also a commission merchant in cloths, whose loss was \$1,000, had \$1,500 insurance in the Irving Company. Sylvester Brush & Son, dealers in hats and furs, lost about \$5,000, and were insured in the Hanover, \$10,000; Tradesman's, \$5,000; American, \$10,000; Ridgewood, \$5,000; Eagle, \$5,000; Hamilton, \$1,000; Ridgewood, \$5,000; Citizen's, \$5,000; and London, Liverpool, jand Globe, \$5,000. The building belongs to the Lorillard estate, and is insured in the Sterling Company for \$5,000; Globe, \$5,000; Manufacturers' and Builders', \$10,000. It was damaged \$3,000. Callae, both commission merchants in cloths, whose IN BROOKLYN.

A fire which originated on the first floor of the two-story frame building No. 311 Second-st., Brook lvn, E. D., about 2 a. m. yesterday, partly destroyed Nos. 309, 311, 313, 315, 317 and 319-all frame buildingswhich were damaged to the extent of \$4,000. The loss is fully covered by policies in the Williamsburgh City and other companies. ELSEWHERE.

Three buildings in Court-st., Montgomery, Ala., were burned yesterday. Loss \$40,000; partly in-

A building in Middle-st., Lowell, occupied by the Lowell Card Company, was partly burned yesterday, causing damage to the eard stock and machinery, mostly by water, to the amount of \$20,000. The property was insured.

The Hotchkiss Sons' hardware factory in the outhern part or Bridgeport. Conn., was destroyed by fire last evening. The main building, over 100 feet long and three stories high, was recently completed, and was to have been set in operation on Mouday next. The loss is heavy; insurance, \$100.020, distributed among Hart-ford, New York, and English companies.

The following statement gives the amount Tuesday night:

Vi., 2 Messiny Hight:
Sadler, Thrall & Cranton, \$1,200 is the Reyal of Liverpool and \$500 is the Garen of Liverpool and Lopdon; B. W. Marshall, \$1,500 is the Springfield, \$2,000 in the Vermont Mutual, \$1,000 is the Alps, and \$1,000 is the North Missouri; J. W. Stearns, \$2,100 is the Invariance Company of North America, John Cumamphan, \$500 is the Northand of Hartford; J. Melsouthin, \$2,000 is the Atlantic and Pacific of Chicago, J. B. Ballance, \$400 is the Gien's Fails Company.

A BAKER MURDERED IN PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31 .- Godfried Kuhule German baker in Frankford-road, below Girard-ave. was murdered this morning in his bakehouse by a young German in his employ, named Fritz. He was killed with a blow from a shovel while leaning into a barrel of flour, death being instantaneous. Friz then went into Mrs. Kubule's room and attempted to strangle her, but she waked up and a struggle ansued. He bear and bit her, and, overpowering her, pushed her unde and bit her, and, overpowering her, pushed her under the bed, believing her to be unconscious. He then robbed the bureau of \$55-all the money it contained-and changed his clothes in an upper room. Mrs. Kulnile, reviving, locked her door and alarmed the neighbors, but the murderer escaped from the house. He was captured in a lager-heer siston from the description given the officers, having lost the little finger of his left hand. He gave his name as Frederick Heiderbiat, and confessed his guist. The money stolen was found on him.

A CRIMINAL'S ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. Boston, Dec. 31.-John Slatterly was senneed to-day to State Prison for ten years. After sentence was passed, and while he was in the lobby charge of two officers, he threw red pepper in the offi-cers' eyes, and endeavored to escape. He was secured, however, and immediately taken back to the course room. Judge Atlinich was informed of the pepper trick, and at once resentenced Statterly to State Prison for fitteen years. He is now in his old quarters at Charles-town, where he has spent several years for rebbery.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN CUBA.

VIOLENT LANGUAGE OF THE HAVANA PRESS IN REGARD TO THE SINKING OF THE VIRGINIUS AND THE LIBERATION OF HER PASSENGERS-OPPOSITION TO REFORMS IN THE ISLAND.

HAVANA, Dec. 31.-The steamship City of Merida arrived here this morning from New-York. She reports having experienced a storm during the entire passage. The steamship Yazoo, at this port from Philadelphia, also reports having encountered a hurricane on the 25th and 26th of December, off the coast of North Carolina. The Voz de Cuba says: A telegram announces the loss of the Virginius. We

did not expect anything else from the American Gov-

ernment. It has acted with the Virginius the same as it did with the Florida, in order not to be compelled to return that steamer to Brazil. Such nobility corresponds with the course of those who are patronizing Cuban assassins and incendiaries in their heroic enter prise. This will not exempt them from paying the full value of the Virginius-she being the prize of the Tornado-nor from giving ample satisfaction and paying proper damages to Spain for the great injury which America has inflicted in breaking its treaty stipula tions so scandalously in permitting the enlistment of uen after such enlistment being advertised ibeforehand in the journals, and in protecting such men when once ont of the country with their flag and vessels of war ipon the high seas and in foreign ports, thereby making bemselves the accomplices of assassins and incen diaries. If the weakness or fickleness of Castelar, not of Spain, delivered to them the Virginius, the bad faith of he American Government buried the pirate ship in the bottom of the sea, as it did the coal barge Upland at the mouth of the dry-dock in the Brooklyn Navy-Yard to prevent the departure of the Arapiles, which they feared so much. With such deeds they will gain everything except honor, and will transmit to the pages of history that which, instead of being their glory, will cause their descendants to blush for having had such illustrious ancestors. It is useless to try to gather pears from elms. What Grant, Sickles, and the rest of the crew can produce has already been fully demonstrated. For the great wrongs of the Spanish nation terrible atonements are reserved, and their hour

The Diario says :

"Punic faith and American justice will appear closely united in history enjoying the same unenviable celeb rity. Punic faith was severely condemned by all ancient seoples; American justice will merit the name of ini-

quity among the moderns." The Diario, referring to the liberation of the Vir-

"The word 'infamy' rises to our lips as applicable to the conduct of the American Government officials. The liberation of these prisoners makes it appear as though they were innocent. We can only a that American justice is iniquity and perfidy. This is the judgment which the signers of the Washington protocol reserved. This judgment is a bloody farce committed against Spain before the eyes of humanity. When an American war vessel took a Confederate cruiser from Brazil, the act was declared a violation of the rights of the latter Government, and the return of the cruiser ordered. The Americans sank her to avoid complying with the duty of returning her. We were told that Spain insisted upon the return of the Now we learn of its loss. We believe the motives of the United States for its action toward Spain are the same as toward Brazil. We believe, and e cannot do less than call the act a low fraud. Madrid Government was fully justified in the demand for the return of the steamer and prisoners, and it is now their unavoidable duty to demand the delivery of the latter, their delivery to their captors, and full satis-faction for the fraud employed. Weakness made us ridiculous and only firmness can place us in the position that befits us. Spaniards in Cuba protest against such iniquitous maneuvers.

In an interview with Captain-General Jovellar, the latter stated that the newspapers give their own opinions; the Government neither inspires nor is esponsible for the articles they print. The Government acts independently, and according to circum stances. It does not follow that because the articles ass the Censor of the Fress, that they reflect the opinions of Jovellar, who denies having seen them.

The official report of the operations of the Governnent forces during the past two weeks show that 31 nsurgents and five Spaniards have been killed in

The Voz de Cuba, in an editorial in the form of a letter addressed to Minister Soler, says political reforms in the island will lead to its independence; therefore all traitors favor and all loyalists oppose them . that the rebels did not originate the abolition movement; that Aldama was the only one of them who manumitted his slaves, and he only did so four years after the outbreak of the insurrection, and when he had given up all hope of ever regaining them; that the abolition movement was only originated as a political lever; that Slavery is necessary for the successful carrying on of the war; that if the question was solved to-day in favor of emancipation, it would decrease or entirely stop agricultural production, from which is derived the necessary funds for the civil and military necessities of the Government; that Spain could not prevent the loss of the Island if deprived of these resources; that all enemies of the Spanish cause are impatient abolitionists, and that the loyal Spaniards have petitioned the Cortes to leave slavery and other reforms untouched until the war is finished.

THE FATE OF MR. KEELER. (BT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

HAVANA, Dec. 31 .- The captain of the steamer Cienfuegos testificathat he saw Ralph Keeler on the vessel at midnight, and that when the passengers were assembled next morning he was missing. He believes that Mr. Keeler went overboard.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]
HAVANA, Dec. 31. — No satisfactory replies have peen received to the telegram and letters of the agent of the New-York Associated Press, inquiring as to the whereabouts of Mr. Ralph Keeler. It is known conclusively that he embarked on the steamship Cienfuegos at Santiago de Cuba. The captain of the Cienfueges saw him on the deck of that yes sel at midnight, and in the morning he had disappeared. It is now considered certain that he was lost overboard. Captain-General Jovellar has ordered a strict inquiry into the circumstances of his disap-

THE KEY WEST STATION. RRIVAL OF THE WACHUSETT FROM GIBRALTAR-THE ALASKA, CONGRESS, AND WABASH TO AR-RIVE SOON.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.-The following has been received from a special correspondent: KEY WEST, Dec. 31 .- The United States steamer

Wachnett arrived to-night, 31 days and 5 hours from Gibraltar, and five days from St. Thomas. On the day the Wachusett left Gibraltar, Nov. 30, the Congress and the Alaska also left, and the Wabash, Admiral Case's flagship, was to have left that night. The Wachusett was at Barcelona when ordered to prepare for sea. On her arrival at Gibraltar, on the 26th of November, she found orders from Washington to go to Key West immediately. The English Minister at Madrid from baving telegraphed to the Governor at Gibraltar that the troubles between the United States and Spain had been amicably settled, Admiral Case elegraphed to Washington to know, whether he should come over to the United States. The answer was, "Obey orders," The vessels left at once. The Alaska steamed all the way from Madeira, and arrived before the Wachusett. While the latter was coaling the Congress came in. All left Madeira about the same time, but neither of the others had arrived at St. Thomas when the Wachusett arrived there. Her officers report a gale two days off Madeira, and rough weather off the coast of Cubs. On the way over, the crew were constantly drilling and practicing with torpedoes. All the guns were shotted and seneral suarters sounded

whenever a steamer was sighted. One night they were at general quarters nearly an hour. All are well on board. The officers of the Wachusett are: Commander T. S. Fillebrown; Executive Officer, Lieut.-Commander, B. H. McCalla; Navigator, Lieut. J. McGowan, jr.; Lieutenants, F. A. Paine C. C. Cornwell, C. W. Jarboe; Masters, T. E. Paine, E. B. Barry; Surgeon, D. Lindleburger; Assistant Surgeon, Wm. S. Dickson; Chief Engineer, S. W. Magee; Paymaster, L. A. Fraley. All on board were reconciled to leaving the European station in the prospect of war, but they were somewhat disappointed to find the prospect faded. The Alaska and Congress are hourly expected, and the Wabash will not be much later in arriving. The steamer City of Galveston from New-Orleans for New-York put in here to-day on account of a broken stem. She will repair at the Government dock and proceed to-morrow to New-York. ASPECTS OF THE STATION-LIFE ON THE FLEET-

NAVAL NEWS AND GOSSIP-SLAVERY IN 1873. FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

KEY WEST, Dec. 22 .- Key West thrives on war and rumors of war. From a West Indian village, lazily basking in tropical sunshine, it has within the last few weeks been transformed into an American town of bustling activity. Not that there is an immense amount of business done here even now but the arrival of vessels of war with naval officers quick to come ashore, and muil steamers with unvonted loads of passengers, has infused some thing of life into the place, and one can now find other topics of conversation than the warmth of the weather and the length of the days and nights. In truth it is not an unpleasant place for either a family or a fleet to wile away a Winter. During the 22 December days of my so journ here the temperature has been uniformly that of late May or early June in New-York. It is warm enough to bring linen suits into requisition during the day, while blankets lie folded at the foot of the bed at night; but a delicious sea-breeze is nearly always stirring, and a plunge into the Gulf for a surf bath is in order at any hour of the day or night. Besides, we have Spring vegetables on the breakfast-table, we can fall into the popular habit of the natives and chew sugar-cane, and in every dooryard splendid cocoanuts in all stages of maturity bang temptingly a little out of the reach of our walking-sticks. It is a wonder that Key West has not long ago become a fashionable Winter watering-place, and that so many naval officers on this station deny themselves the luxury of having their families here, at least during the months from October to May. There is a good hotel of limited capacity, and pleasant houses may be rented for prices which do not seem exorbitant.

The scent of spoil has also brought hither a few specimens of other kinds of birds of prey, which were very familiar to the American people during the late civil war. But thanks to the mystery in which diplomacy has shrouded its movements, and made the question of War or No War one of uncertain solution, these are not yet numerous enough to be troublesome. The latest addition to the stock of sports is an importation from the Lone Star State; and it comes in the form of a faro bank, which has thus far made an unsuccessful attempt to supersede the oldfashioned naval game of poker. The managers of this institution are a gentlemanly pair, looking like retired cotton factors, and too good to gamble on Sunday. THE TRIBUNE has been fully advised by telegraph

of the naval movements hereabouts. The fleet was slow in coming, but it is here, and is prepared and anxious for a brush with Spain, Cuba, or almost any other foreign Power. As soon as a few more vessels come in it is probable that there will be exercises enough to keep officers and men pretty constantly employed. There will be boat drills, inspections, fleet exercises, and various other maneuvers. If the European Squadron comes over, and the ships now fitting out in Northern navy-yards are sent down to Key West as fast as they are ready, we shall have here a naval spectacle worth seeing, one of the finest indeed, except thattle scenes, that this country has ever afforded. Rear-Admiral Gustavus H. Scott, who commands the North Atlantic Squadron, is in personal appearance not unlike Gen. Robert E. Lee. He is a man upon whom the Goverument and the people can confidently rely, with the knowledge that in peace or war he will discharge with energy, ability and sound discretion any duty with which he may be intrusted. There is some speculation as to what will be done if Rear-Admiral Case, who commands the European station, comes over with his squadron, as he probably will. In that event, it will no doubt be to the interest of the Government and more agreeable to all parties interested for Admiral Porter or Vice-Admiral Rowan to take command, with the fleet organized in two divisions, each under a Rear-Admiral. It is already reported that this will be done, and that the Tennessee will be the flagship of the commanding officer of the combined fleets. The vessels now here are the Worcester (flagship), Colorado (first rate), Powhatan (second rate), Wyoming (third rate), Pawnee (receiving and hospital ship), Saugus, Mahopac, and Manhattan (iron-clads, fourth rate), Despatch, Fortune (fourth rate), and Mayflower (fourth rate). The Ossipee has gone north with the Virginius, and the Pinta is en route hither from Santiago. The Despatch has proved exceedingly serviceable, and is remarkable for speed. Lieut.-Commander Frederick Rodgers, the com manding officer, is fitted for any duty requiring tact, plnck, or skill, and his corps of officers are all that could be required for the delicate duties with which they are intrusted. A case of slaveholding in the United States has just been brought to light in this place. Some

months ago an old Cuban refugee being very sick his children sent to the island for an experienced nurse, who had been owned by them since the infancy of the head of the family. The woman was brought over with her three children, and nursed the old man so faithfully that at his death he bequeathed to her his bed, bedding, and other furniture. Incensed by this disposal of the property, his daughter refused to let the old woman have it, and daughter refused by this disposal of the property, his daughter refused to let the old woman have it, and burned it in the yard of the residence. The family then resolved to keep from the poor negress the knowledge of her freedom, and in order to do so kept her steadily at work under their eyes during the day and locked up at night. In the mean time she was cruelly beaten and nearly starved. This went on for months, and the facts finally by accident came to the knowledge of a philanthropic Englishman, who, having by stratagem satisfied himself of their truth, called the attention of the United States Marshal and District-Attorney to the case. It was then discovered that the slaveholders were preparing to send the woman and her children back to a Cuban plantation, and it was hard to convince the poor creature that she was indeed free. She had never heard of emancipation, and although complaining of cruel treatment, thought she was obliged to submit to those who claimed her and her offspring as their property. But when finally she was made to understand her rights, she was prompt enough to hid farewell to her oppressors, and is now enjoying liberty to the fullest extent. The slaveholders have not well to her oppressors, and to slaveholders have not to the fullest extent. The slaveholders have not to the fullest extent. Is this the last case of slavery in

THE CASE OF THE EDGAR STEWART. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARANCE PAPERS

WILL BE WITHHELD. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.-The Treasury De-

partment is kept advised of the movements connected with the Edgar Stewart, now undergoing repairs at Baltimore. A clearance will be denied if the proof shall be sufficient to show that she intends to violate the neutralify laws. But in this there is some difficulty, as under our Customs a vessel may clear estensibly for legitimat our Customs a vessel may clear estensibly for legitimate purposes, even when avms and ammunition are the cargo; but after she reaches the high seas there is no authority to prevent her from changing her destination. This vessel was eleared two years ago at New-London, the Collector taking the responsibility of insuling a temporary register without consulting the Treasury Department. She had arms and ammunition on board, and, chauging her alleged destination, she carried them to the Cuban hourselve.

WASHINGTON.

THE CHIEF-JUSTICESHIP.

THE PRESIDENT STATES THAT HE WILL NOT APPOINT ONE OF THE PRESENT SUPREME JUDGES IF JUDGE WILLIAMS'S NOMINATION IS REJECTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 .- A gentleman who called

apon the President to-day asked him if, in case udge Williams's nomination to be Chief-Justice was rejected by the Senate, he would appoint either of the present Supreme Judges, and he replied most positively that he would not. He said that he did not believe that men already on the Supreme bench ought to have any ambition in regard to advancenent, either on or off the bench. Their positions now, he said, were the highest in the land, and when a man went upon the Supreme bench he ought to devote all his energies to the responsible duties that: devolve upon him. This determination of the President, it is thought, will give Judge Williams strength in the Senate, and induce some to vote for him in spite of the laundalet and Arkansas scandals. If the President will not appoint one of the present Judges, nor Mr. Evarts, nor Mr. Curtis, some of the Senators ask in despair, "Who will be appoint, and will be not be a worse man than Williams?"

MILITARY PRISONS.

REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL BOARD TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR A MILITARY PRISON AT ROCK ISLAND-OBSERVATIONS ON THE DEFECTS IN THE SYS-TEM OF PUNISHING MILITARY PRISONERS—THE ARSENAL GROUNDS AT FORT LEAVENWORTH RECOMMENDED AS A MORE ELIGIBLE SITE THAN ROCK ISLAND.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Col. Nelson A. Miles, Maj. Thos. F. Barr, and Maj. George P. Andrews, three members of the Provisional Board authorized by act of Congress approved March 3, 1873, to adopt a plan for the building of a military prison at Rock Island, etc., in their report to the Adjutant-General make the following observations: To the thoughtful observer of army administration, the

most apparent blemish has long been the absence of any system looking to the proper enforcement of sentences adjudged by Courts Martial, so that the highest object of ounishment-reformation-has been and is impossible of attainment. In most of our guard houses, prisoners are congregated with no restraint upon intercourse, so that southful offenders are necessarily brought under the nfluence of those old in crime, who have been ignominously discharged. The penalty of hard labor, usually accompanying sentences to confinement, is rarely of, execution, the labor generally performed being police duty, which, it is clearly evident, should not be considered penal in its character. That such work is performed by prisone wearing balls and chains, serves not only to degrade the labor, but as well it tends to inflict injury upon the prisoners. It is evident that a course of degradation can never reform a criminal, and when it is borne in nind that a large majority of military prisoners are not from the criminal classes, but are mostly confined for offenses mala prohibita, the great wrong which is done them cannot be too strongly condemned. In a pecuniary sense, the loss to the Government engendered through the support of these prisoners in comparative idleness is very great; while in a moral sense, the loss to society cannot be estimated. These sentenced to hard labor, with ball and chain, pass through the humiliating period of their imprisonment, leaving it, in most instances, with a sense that injustice has been done them, and with hearts hardened toward constituted authorities, to swell the criminal classes. It cannot be questioned that the Government has a responsibility in the premises that has hitherto failed of active acknowledgment. The provisions of the act under which this report is submitted, aim to assume that responsibility, and while the erection of a single prison cannot meet fully the requirements of a service so widely distributed as ours, it will bring under one system of nanagement all the military prisoners who are confined in the State prisons or penitentiaries throughout the country, and to that extent work a radical reform. It is believed that its successful administration will naturally lead to proper provision being made for punishmentan a wise and discriminating manner of all military offenders, as a uniform system is felt to be the greatest want

The Provisional Board also believe that military prisons, properly conducted, can be made self-sustaining. Although not called upon to ofler any suggestions as to the advisability of selecting other sites for a military prison, than that at Rock Island, the Board does recommend the arsenal grounds at Fort Leavenworth, as far more eligible venient, while the buildings there, now of but little practical use to the Government could be readily converted to prison uses. Two-thirds of the expense could be saved in the preparation of buildings by this change of site. Should it be deemed desirable to have a prison on the Atlantic coast, David's Island in New-York harbor is mentioned, as in all essential respects a most eligible location.

SENATORIAL EXTRAVAGANCE.

THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE ESTIMA. TED AT \$71,140-OVER NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS EXPENDED LAST YEAR FOR NEWSPAPERS AND STATIONERY-ENVELOPES AND POSTAGE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN DOCUMENTS AT GOV-ERNMENT EXPENSE - VISITING-CARDS AND POCKET-BOOKS AMONG THE ARTICLES FURNISHED SENATE COMMITTEES. FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 .- While some of the senators and Representatives who are spending the ecess of Congress in Washington are mousing about imhe departments and suggesting reductions in the anquai estimates, or inquiring into the expenditure of the contingent funds, some of those at the other end of the Avenue are reciprocating by overhauling the contingent accounts of the legislative branch of the Government to sec if a little of the economy which members preach to the departments cannot be exercised at the Capitol. Beginning with the Senate, they find that the estimates for the contingent expenses of that body, exclusive of ex-penditures for fuel, clerks and Capitol police, amount to-71,140. Of this, the estimate for stationery for committees and officers of the Senate is \$5,000; that for horses and carryalls, \$9,000; folding documents and materials, \$3,000; labor, \$16,000; furniture and repairs, \$12,000, and for miscellaneous items, exclusive of labor, \$40,000. Of this \$40,000 there was nominally spent during the jlast fiscal year, when the Senate was in actual session less than four months, for stationery and newspapers furnished to Senators personally, \$9,047 42, or \$122 27 for

It would naturally be supposed that such a sum as this would pay for all of the stauonery and newspapers that each Senator desired, and this supposition strengthened by the fact that almost every one commuted a part of his stationery allowance and received on this account cash varying in amount from a few cents to \$150. But an examination of the stationery account of the committees shows that a creat many articles were furnished to the committees for which senators, in their official capacity as members of those committees, could have no use, and that of other articles the amount far exceeded what could legitimately be used in transacting common business. Here are some of the most striking items in the two accounts :

Number of envelopes furnished to Senators on account of personal stationery. 318,900 Number furnished committees. 56,300

445.100 or 6,014 for each Senator. If the Government paid for an equal number of envelopes for each member of the House the aggregate number was so areat as to make it innecessary for the Republican Campaign Committee to have purchased any envelopes for the documents they sent out of Washington in the Fail of 1872. This single item may also help to explain the surplus fund which the National Republican Committee found in its hands the National Republic after the dovernment paid for the envolopes as well as for the folding and postage of the Presidential campaign documents. The envolopes must have been used in this way or they were stolen, for not onehalf of 445,100 were used for the honest public and private business of 74 Benstors.

Of writing-paper there was furnished to Senators for

See Seventh Page